

CLAIMS

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:
 - a paper transport mechanism that transports paper, and
 - 5 an image processing mechanism that performs image reading processing of the paper transported by the paper transport mechanism, wherein
 - when, in the case that multi-feeding has occurred in which when a first paper is transported by the paper transport mechanism another paper
 - 10 is also transported, and the other paper is not positioned between the first paper and a working portion of the image processing mechanism, the working portion of the image processing mechanism is allowed to operate.
2. An original reading apparatus comprising:
 - 15 an original transport mechanism that, along with having a movable member that can make contact with an original placed on an original placement stage, transports the original by delivering it from the original placement stage by transmitting the movement of the movable member to the original with frictional force between the movable member and the
 - 20 original, which is in contact with the movable member, and
 - an original reading mechanism having a light source that illuminates the original, an optical sensor, and an optical system that guides light reflected from the original illuminated by the light source to the optical sensor, and that captures an image of the original transported by the
 - 25 original transport mechanism, wherein
 - when, in the case that multi-feeding has occurred in which when a first original is transported by the paper transport mechanism another original is also transported, and the other original is not positioned between the first original and a reading portion of the original reading mechanism,
 - 30 the reading operation of the image of the first original by the original

reading mechanism is continued.

3. The original reading apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the
original transport mechanism is a structure in which a plurality of pages of
5 originals that have been placed on the original placement stage with the
original face upward are supplied and transported page by page beginning
with the top page, or a structure in which a plurality of pages of originals
that have been placed on the original placement stage with the original face
downward are supplied and transported page by page beginning with the
10 bottom page.

4. An original reading apparatus comprising:

an original transport mechanism that, along with having a movable
member that can make contact with an original placed on an original
placement stage, transports the original by delivering it from the original
placement stage by transmitting the movement of the movable member to
the original with frictional force between the movable member and the
original, which is in contact with the movable member, and

an original reading mechanism having a light source that
20 illuminates the original, an optical sensor, and an optical system that
guides light reflected from the original illuminated by the light source to the
optical sensor, and that captures an image of the original transported by the
original transport mechanism, wherein

when, in the case that multi-feeding has occurred in which when a
25 first original is transported by the paper transport mechanism another
original is also transported, and the other original is positioned between the
first original and a reading portion of the original reading mechanism, the
reading operation of the image of the first original by the original reading
mechanism is stopped.

5. An original reading apparatus comprising:
an original transport mechanism that, along with having a movable member that can make contact with an original placed on an original placement stage, transports the original by delivering it from the original placement stage by transmitting the movement of the movable member to the original with frictional force between the movable member and the original, which is in contact with the movable member, and
an original reading mechanism having a light source that illuminates the original, an optical sensor, and an optical system that guides light reflected from the original illuminated by the light source to the optical sensor, and that captures an image of the original transported by the original transport mechanism, wherein
when, in the case that multi-feeding has occurred in which when a first original is transported by the paper transport mechanism another original is also transported, and the other original is positioned between the first original and a reading portion of the original reading mechanism, the reading operation of the image of the other original by the original reading mechanism is continued.
- 20 6. The original reading apparatus according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the original transport mechanism is a structure in which a plurality of pages of originals that have been placed on the original placement stage with the original face upward are supplied and transported page by page beginning with the bottom page, or a structure in which a plurality of pages of originals that have been placed on the original placement stage with the original face downward are supplied and transported page by page beginning with the top page.
- 25 7. The original reading apparatus according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the original reading mechanism detects the leading edge of the other

original when reading the first original.

8. The original reading apparatus according to claim 5, wherein when
the original reading mechanism has detected the leading edge of the other
5 original during reading of the first original, the original reading mechanism
stops the reading operation of the first original and deletes the read image.

9. The original reading apparatus according to claim 2, 4, or 5,
wherein a notifier is provided that, when the reading operation of the first
10 original could not be performed due to multi-feeding, makes such a
notification.

10. The original reading apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the
notifier makes a notification of information of the original for which reading
15 could not be performed due to multi-feeding.

11. An electronic equipment, wherein a scanner apparatus, copy
apparatus, or facsimile apparatus, or a multifunction machine in which any
two or more of these apparatuses are combined, is equipped with the image
20 processing apparatus according to claim 1.

12. An electronic equipment, wherein a scanner apparatus, copy
apparatus, or facsimile apparatus, or a multifunction machine in which any
two or more of these apparatuses are combined, is equipped with the
25 original reading apparatus according to any one of claims 2 through 9.

13. An original reading method comprising:
a step of transporting an original with an original transport
mechanism,
30 a step of reading an image of the transported original with an

original reading mechanism,

a step of detecting multi-feeding of another original when transporting a first original with the original transport mechanism, and

5 a step of continuing the reading operation of the image of the first original by the original reading mechanism in the case that the other original is not positioned between the first original and the reading portion of the original reading mechanism, even when the multi-feeding has been detected.

10 14. An original reading method comprising:

a step of transporting an original with an original transport mechanism,

a step of reading an image of the transported original with an original reading mechanism,

15 a step of detecting multi-feeding of another original when transporting a first original with the original transport mechanism, and

a step of continuing the reading operation of the image of the other original by the original reading mechanism in the case that the multi-feeding has been detected and the other original is positioned
20 between the first original and the reading portion of the original reading mechanism.